

From: Sierra Club North Carolina Chapter [reply@emails.sierraclub.org]
Sent: 11/21/2017 5:46:17 PM
To: Tarr, Jeremy M [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=98859532088e4437968231eb6fef6b70-jmtarr1]
Subject: [External] Footnotes Online - November 2017

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Dear Supporter,

Across North Carolina and the nation, families and friends are getting together to give thanks for the good that has come their way this year.

The North Carolina Sierra Club is doing the same. We're thankful for you, our members and supporters, who fight so vigorously to protect our air, land and water. We're thankful for elected leaders who have been champions in their efforts to protect our environment and public health - and, increasingly, businesses that are taking a stand in support of clean energy. We're thankful for volunteers who lead outings, organize marches, speak up at hearings, and make the state Chapter and all our local Sierra Club Groups a powerful, living force. You may celebrate on Thursday with a bounteous meal with family and friends, or by serving those who have less. Whatever you do, we encourage you to take a little time this long weekend to reconnect with the outdoors. Appreciate the glowing landscape of fall, remember the warmth of spring and summer, and look forward to the glistening hush of winter. It's your dedication and action that allow us to protect these beautiful scenes year after year - **and we are always grateful**. Thank you for all you do! Your Staff at the NC Sierra Club



Tell your U.S. rep to vote NO on a bill that would harm N.C.'s coast

The holidays have come early this year for the oil and gas industry!

Congress and the Trump administration want to give oil and gas companies everything they ever wanted in the SECURE American Energy Act (Strengthening the Economy with Critical Untapped Resources to Expand American Energy Act, or H.R. 4239). The SECURE Act could be up for a

vote in the U.S. House of Representatives as soon as next week.

From gutting the Marine Mammal Protection Act to removing Endangered Species Act protections in the permitting process, the SECURE bill, if passed, will let the oil and gas industry run roughshod over our coast, devastating marine animal populations and endangering the beauty and economic power of our beaches.

[Use our action form NOW to tell your member of Congress to protect our coast!](#) Twenty-eight coastal North Carolina communities have passed resolutions opposing offshore drilling. Encourage your member of Congress to listen to what North Carolinians have emphatically requested.

The SECURE bill would silence your voice by removing public input and requiring that state coasts be put on the auction block for oil and gas exploration. The bill "streamlines" the permitting process for seismic blasting by eliminating protections in the Marine Mammal Protection and Endangered Species Acts, leaving dolphins, whales, and other marine creatures vulnerable to the whims of the oil and gas industry.

The SECURE bill must be stopped, and you can help stop it! Contact your representative now and demand a NO vote on this dirty and dangerous bill. Remind our leaders that our coast belongs to the public - and we will fight to protect it.



NC to get \$92 million in VW settlement. You can have a say in how it is spent!

North Carolina's electric vehicle charging infrastructure may get a boost thanks to Volkswagen's misbehavior.

As you may recall, the automaker was caught cheating on its emissions testing in 2015, with more than 580,000 vehicles in the US involved. The Environmental Protection Agency cited the company for Clean Air Act violations, reaching a \$14.7 billion settlement in 2016. About \$92 million of that money will come to North Carolina, based on the number of affected autos in the state - and the state will have to come up with a plan next year to use the funds.

[DEQ has set up a website to allow the public to offer ideas.](#) Sierrans, this is your chance to advocate that the funds be used for electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging infrastructure, rather than other options that would do less for clean air.

All VW settlement funds that come to North Carolina must be used within 10 years to remediate nitrogen oxide air pollution, a primary cause of ozone or health-harming smog. Sierra Club is encouraging the development of electric vehicle charging stations, electric school buses, or electric cars for the state fleet.



North Carolinians stand strong against fracked gas pipeline

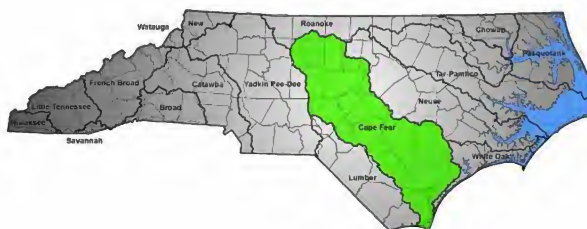
About 80 people filled a public hearing in rural Northampton County last week to say a forceful NO to building a compressor station in their community for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Duke Energy and Dominion Resources have asked for permission to build the station, a critical component of the pipeline infrastructure, on the North Carolina-Virginia border, in an area where more than 79 percent of the population is African-American.

About 30 people signed up to speak about the proposed compressor station, with opponents outnumbering supporters two to one. (*The crowd included Barbara Exum of Wilson County No Pipeline, pictured above.*) The Sierra Club helped anti-pipeline partners with turnout by sending postcards and making phone calls to people who live in the evacuation and blast zones.

Numerous speakers referred to a recent study from the NAACP and the Clean Air Task Force, [Fumes Across the Fenceline](#), that concludes the Atlantic Coast Pipeline would have a greater negative impact on communities of color. [You can read more about the study in this article from the News & Observer of Raleigh.](#)

If you'd like to help in the fight against the ACP, you're welcome to get in touch with [Sierra Club organizer Caroline Hansley](#).



GenX update: Cooper, state regulators crack down on Chemours discharges

State environmental regulators have had enough of discharges of potentially harmful chemicals by the Chemours company into the drinking water of residents of southeastern North Carolina.

The Department of Environmental Quality announced last week that it is in the process of revoking Chemours' wastewater discharge permit because the company failed to report an October chemical spill until it was directly questioned about the problem by state inspectors.

The company has been under investigation over the discharge of GenX, a potential carcinogen, into the Cape Fear River near Fayetteville, affecting drinking water supplies in downstream communities, including Wilmington.

GenX, used to make Teflon, Gore-Tex and other products, is part of a family of chemicals that are believed to cause cancer and act as endocrine disrupters, potentially causing myriad health issues. But because its long-term effects are not fully known, it's unregulated as an "emerging contaminant."

The state's action will bar Chemours from putting its wastewater into the Cape Fear. The company can continue its production if it finds another way to dispose of the waste it generates.

"People who are personally affected by the GenX crisis will be relieved to know that North Carolina's environmental regulators will hold polluters accountable for their actions," Erin Carey, the NC Sierra Club's Coastal Programs Coordinator, said in response to the state's action. "We are pleased that Governor Cooper and Secretary Regan have taken strong action today to protect public health and the environment."

Stay tuned for more updates as North Carolina begins to address the emerging challenges of dealing with increasing numbers of new chemical compounds in our drinking water.



Let's toast our top volunteers - with water bottles

The N.C. Sierra Club honored some of our most steadfast volunteers this month at the Chapter Executive Committee with the fabled "Water Bottle" award.

Kathy Noble (*above left, with Chapter Chair Steve Copulsky*) and David Reid (*above right*) accepted the Sierra Club-logo bottles in person, while Ashley Daniels was honored in absentia for her excellent leadership of our Chapter Equity committee.

Kathy was recognized for her service on the Steering Committee, her contributions as our Outings Committee Co-Chair (including helping to organize our very successful wilderness weekends and

our outings leader training workshops), and her leadership on conference calls for Group Chairs.

David has helped to lead our National Forest Committee through the complex Nantahala-Pisgah forest revision plan and has engaged our members by leading hikes to "explore, enjoy and protect" wilderness areas.

Thanks to all our Chapter and Group volunteers! We're grateful for your many hours of service, the activities and involvement you offer to Club members and supporters, and the guidance you provide to Chapter staff and Group members.

If you'd like to get involved as a Chapter or Group leader, get in touch with [Chapter Chair Steve Copulsky](#), or look up [information about your local Group on our website](#).

Upcoming Outings and Events

Note: All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. To register, contact the group leader(s) or [visit the Outings and Events calendar on our website](#).

Friday, Nov. 24, 9 AM

Foothills Group: Join us on our "Green Friday" hike!

Would you like to get away on "Black Friday"? Join us in our "Green Friday" hike and explore the new Pilot Creek Trail in Pilot Mountain State Park. The trail is on the north side of the park and meanders on a climb of about 800 feet over 3.3 miles, meeting the Grindstone and Mountain trails at its end. The trail is considered moderate, with very easy-to-cross streams. We will meet at the access entrance at Boyd Nelson road and start the hike at 9 am and should be back at the same place by 2 pm. Wear proper attire and bring a packed lunch and a drink. No pets allowed.

Leader/organizer: Ana Clara Melo, meloacj@gmail.com.

Friday, Nov. 24, 9:30 AM

Central Piedmont Group: "Green Friday" Hike

Get some exercise on the day after Thanksgiving. Our annual "Green Friday" hike will be a moderate 5-mile round-trip hike to Browns Mountain on a somewhat hilly trail. Browns Mountain is located in Kings Mountain National Military Park, S.C., about an hour from Charlotte. It's best visited during the fall or winter when views from the mountain top are not obstructed by the tree canopy. We'll meet at the park at 9:30 AM and should be done by 12:30 PM. Afterward, you might want to walk along the self-guided Battlefield Trail and spend time in the Visitor Center to learn about this important Revolutionary War battle. Limited to 20 hikers.

Leader/organizer: Steve Copulsky 704-458-6651 scopulsky@mindspring.com

Monday, Nov. 27, 10 AM

Croatan Group: Wards Creek Service Outing with NCCF

We have joined forces with the NC Coastal Federation to clean up litter around the Wards Creek Bridge area near Otway. We have orange safety vests, trash bags, and some gloves but please bring your pick up sticks/devices to make the job easier. Everyone must wear long pants, heavy shoes (no flip-flops!), a safety vest (we provide), and gloves.

Leader/organizer: Michael Murdoch (252) 726-5808 memurdoch@gmail.com

Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 AM

Foothills Group: Join a Guided Tour of Vade Mecum and Hike the Palisades and Wiggly Grit Trails

The area known as Vade Mecum to Stokes County folks and also as the former Camp Sertoma is now safely in the care of Hanging Rock State Park. Along with Hanging Rock State Park, the Dan River, the Sauratown Trails Association equestrian trail, and the Mountains to Sea Trail, Vade Mecum is part of the natural heritage of Stokes County. The outing will begin with a guided tour of the chapel, hotel, Tise Hall (gym), and Spring House. The hour-long tour is offered by the Friends of Sauratown Mountains for a fee of \$5, which will support the restoration of Vade Mecum. The hike portion, led by Foothills outing leader Henry Fansler, is a 3-mile easy walk, with stream crossings and rock-hopping options. This will be the last opportunity to hike in Vade Mecum until the spring of 2018. You must contact Henry to join the hike.

Leader/organizer: Henry Fansler (336) 473-0283 hbjfansler@windstream.net

Saturday, Dec. 9, 11 AM

Central Piedmont Group: Contemplative Hike and Backpack Lunch

This hike is on private property along the South Fork of Crowders Creek near Crowders Mountain, led by Linda Alley, and Mary Lou and George Buck. Allow yourself to slow down and still your mind during the holiday season. We will hike up the knob on the "Blue Ribbon Trail," a moderate, gradual climb. About half way up, we will begin to walk silently to the rocky top, then each choose a spot and sit in silence for a brief time to observe nature around us. After lunch and fellowship, we will hike down the loop trail and along the creek. This land is under conservation easement with The Catawba Lands Conservancy. It is a "Natural Heritage Site" with a rocky, monadnock knob and a variety of plants. Directions will be sent when you register.

Leader/organizer: Mary Lou Buck 704-525-2293 maryloubuc@aol.com

Saturday, Dec. 16, 9 AM

Foothills Group: Hanging Rock State Park Holiday Hike

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season! We will hike portions of the Lake, Chestnut Oak, Magnolia Spring, Cooks Wall, and Wolf Rock trails. These trails will give

you an idea of how important our state parks are in preserving North Carolina's natural heritage as well as a place of peace and solitude. Bring water, lunch and rain gear, and wear hiking footwear. The 5-mile hike is rated moderate. Please contact the leader to join.

Leader/organizer: Henry Fansler (336) 473-0282 hbjfansler@windstream.net

For further details and to register for events, [please visit our Outings calendar](#).



[Please consider making a donation today to help us protect North Carolina's air, water, and natural places.](#)

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